> former chief of staff of Ohio State's USG, Keller Blackburn, by then-President Robert "B.J." Schuerger and then-Vice President Cespedes. The money was allegedly given to Blackburn from the executive branch's discretionary funds without approval of student senators in the form of two checks—one for $1,000 and another for $1,250—for his work during the summer, fall and winter quarters.
>
> However, the *Lantern* reported that on Dec. 14, 2000, the day both checks were cashed, 12 members of USG—including Blackburn, Cespedes and Schuerger—enjoyed an evening in Columbus eating at Mitchell's Steakhouse, drinking Champagne and riding in a limousine.
>
> The day this story broke, about 10,000 copies of the *Lantern* were stolen from stands across campus. This forced the Office of Student Affairs to investigate whether USG officials misused funds and then tried to cover their tracks by disposing of the papers.
>
> About a week later on Feb. 13, *The Columbus Dispatch* reported that Schuerger asked for Blackburn and Cespedes to resign from their positions. Schuerger then accused Cespedes of leading the plot to remove the newspapers, to which Cespedes did not comment on.

You almost have to admire that within 19 years, Cespedes went from running small-time scams in student government to pleading guilty for his role in the largest bribery scheme in state history (that we know about). That kind of career trajectory usually results in a man walking on the moon.

Critical support to this particular parent

A high-quality photoshop reminding you that, in my opinion, State Senate President Matt Huffman is a domestic terrorist.

Rooster Worldwide LLC is at a point where I'm starting to understand what newspapers envisioned back in the day by hiring multiple people.

I'll get tips and story ideas all the time to the point it's like, man, I swear I'm going to get around to writing something about that horrible situation when I can give it the time it deserves.

LifeWise Academy is one of those topics. You would think the Christian nationalist movement and other assorted freak fundamentalists would be satisfied with making 90% of Ohio's public school children eligible for public school vouchers.

But the leaders of these movements ultimately know that the vouchers are little more than a scheme to subsidize affluent, predominantly white families already sending their kids to private schools.

To truly stop the hemorrhaging of Americans fleeing the church, they'll need to erode public schools more than that.

Enter LifeWise Academy, a "nonprofit" providing Christian instruction during public school time.

Thankfully, one brave parent had enough of their bullshit and enrolled with the school and immediately published their curriculum online, a move for which LifeWise Academy is doing the Christian thing by suing the parent.

From Dean Narcisco of dispatch.com:

> A Hilliard-based nonprofit provider of Christian instruction to public schools has sued a former Ohio man for copyright infringement, claiming he improperly uploaded and shared proprietary instructional materials with families.
>
> LifeWise Academy filed the lawsuit July 2 against Zachary Parrish, a parent who strongly feels that public schools should be free of influence by any single religion, especially when it is offered for payment.
>
> LifeWise calls itself a "privately funded Christian non-profit that provides public school families with 'released time' religious instruction in traditional, character-based, Biblical teaching during school hours." Released time would include lunch breaks and non-core instruction like art, music or study halls.

Successfully ending gerrymandering in Ohio won't be a silver bullet for everything that ails our political system.

But it would be a massive boost to ending charlatan tricks like LifeWise Academy because this stuff is pushed by the kook wing of the Republican Party that has an outsized role in Statehouse politics due to the current gerrymandered efforts led by Senate President Matt Huffman, who, in my opinion, is a domestic terrorist.